

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – APRIL 18, 2013

Never before have youth invited every-day Canadians to an all-inclusive trip: to live in their homes on their remote reserve to celebrate National Aboriginal Week: together

Youth from the community of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) Invite Canadians 'home' on June 17 -21th.

Organized and led by the youth of K.I, 25 Canadians will be invited to experience the living conditions on their remote reserve: to live in their homes, share in their daily life, see their deep connection to the land, their community spirit, and their way of life. **'We want them to see our living conditions and the hope we still have'** says Youth Leader, Justin Beardy.

On April 19th, 2013 at 2:00PM from the remote Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, youth will launch the below invitation to Canadians, inviting them in their homes. An official invitation photo will be taken with the youth, their leaders and the community marking this special moment.

Invitations will be sent via Facebook to fill the remaining seats on the Dash-8 charter plane from Wasaya Airways. So far nine seats are pre-reserved and the remaining 16 spots will be filled by every day Canadians wanting to break the racial barriers that divide us. Youth are excited to book their first ever charter plane: a symbol of freedom in their fly-in community. The deposit for the plane will be paid for by their Facebook fundraiser which raised \$7,100 so far for their June event.

Special VIP guests will be the inspirational youth walkers from the Journey of Nishiyuu who walked from their remote community and arrived in Ottawa on March 25th. They will help ring National Aboriginal Day in the remote and often forgotten North.

While most travel to large urban centres on June 21st, 25 every-day Canadians are invited to travel to a remote reserve in a Nation to Nation call for friendship. Other honorary guests will be invited to drop in throughout the week. Stephen Harper, Thomas Mulcair, Justin Trudeau, Wab Kinew, Rick Mercer, David Suzuki, George Stroumboulopoulos, Actor Taylor Lautner, Graham Green, Ellen Degeneris, Ophra, Nelly Furtado, MP Craig Scott, Adam Beach, Co-founder of Idle No More, Jessie

Gordon, MP Carolyn Bennett, Chief Theresa Spence, NHL players are all on the wish list of drop-in visitors.

The community, featured in the documentary, *3rd World Canada* will open up their homes and plan activities of friendship showcasing what they love about their community and land, in spite of the living conditions.

The film, *3rd World Canada*, the drum and youth toured Southern Ontario in the fall of 2012 hosting open dialogue & screenings to hundreds of Canadians who never knew of the 3rd world in their own backyard. Inspired by the message of hope and community pride from the youth on tour, some of these audience members will be on that plane in June. *'It's time we bring the tour home and invite Canadians here'* says Leona Matthews.

Youth quotes, photos and 3rd World Canada film clips available upon request.

Media contact:

In K.I. Ontario:

* Youth Leader: Leona Matthews leonamathews_kievent@hotmail.com

* Youth Leader: Justin Beardy: kistodge@yahoo.ca

* Youth Leader: Karyn Paishk: karynlauriepaishk@yahoo.ca

Available for interviews: youth leaders in K.I. , filmmaker and:

Thunder Bay, Ontario:

* youth contact & fundraiser coordinator: **Archie Anderson** (17 year old):
john6277384@gmail.com

* Youth featured in the film: **Lily Sainnawap** (18 years old) & sister **Naydine Sainnawap** (20 years old)

Ottawa:

3rd World Canada filmmaker and event partner, Andrée Cazabon
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Follow us on: 3rd World Canada Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/3rdWorldCanada>

Watch the film trailer: <http://www.thirdworldcanada.ca/trailer>



Date: April 17th, 2013

To Whom it may concern,

Re: A Letter of Invitation to KI's June Event as our Guests of Honor - June 17 - 21, 2013.

Booshoo ! Greetings from KI !

We are and honored to invite you, on behalf of our community, to a first-time ever event that is entirely led by our very own: youth of KI.

In this event, we are inviting 25 Canadians (yourself included) to join us, to live in our homes, to share in our daily experiences, see our deep connection to our waters, our land, our people, and our way of life here in our homelands of KI, on National Aboriginal Day; the traditional way ! In doing this, we hope to raise awareness not just for our own community, but for all our fellow First Nation remote communities, for the good.

You see, we could go on and on about issues and concerns we have as a remote First Nation, but I don't want to do that. Instead, we would love for you to first-hand experience our love of the land, feel the fresh air we get from mother earth, taste our food given to us by the Creator, and to greet our People... then you will see that we are people just like everyone else- we feel, we hurt, we cry and we laugh.

As well, we have the full support to run this event by our Chief, Donny Morris, and our Council. They are behind us in all that we do, and we couldn't be any more blessed to have them support and believe in us, and for them to allow us to lead the way. As you may have heard time and time again "youth are the leaders of tomorrow", but you rarely see that youth are given a chance to demonstrate and bring that saying to life and into realization through leadership. We the youth believe that by us holding this event, we can be an example; and that if given a chance, we can do great and mighty things for ourselves and for our people. **And for this June event, we are doing it!**

Many people will be going to the Hill on June 21st and as a remote fly-in reservation, we want to pay tribute to all our brothers and sisters, who like us, who will not be traveling to Ottawa for National Aboriginal Day; a luxury we cannot afford. We may not be able to fly to Ottawa, but we can have 'Ottawa' and everyday Canadians from the south fly up to see us as our 'youth in action' and to spend this National Aboriginal Day in our traditional way of life.

You see, most people would think it is unusual for First Nation People and Canadians to be friends due to racial, origin, and language differences (to name a few), but we strongly disagree. How else can we live amongst each other and create a better home in this country we call Canada that we share together!? By us coming together, working and sharing in our lives can be an example of just that and especially that it is possible to be friends; ***we are friends!*** Also in doing this, ***we can create a better and stronger country for us, for our children and our children's children.***

In closing, please know how honored we are to host you and thankful you will be taking the time to see why we love our People, our Home, Our Waters, our Land, and our way of life. Maybe in doing this, everyone will begin to stand together and be as one!

Meetgwetch !

Leona Matthews,
Youth Leader - June Event in K.I.

Karyn Paishk,
Youth Leader - June Event in K.I.

Justin Beardy,
Youth Leader - June Event in K.I.

c.c. Chief Donny Morris - Kitchenuhmaykoosib Innunwug First Nation